



Arkansas Department of Health

4815 West Markham Street • Little Rock, Arkansas 72205-3867 • Telephone (501) 661-2000
Governor Asa Hutchinson
José R. Romero, MD, Secretary of Health

Effective May 18, 2020

Modified November 23, 2020 regarding face coverings

Revised as Guidance April 1, 2021

Guidance Regarding Summer Day Camps

The Secretary of Health, in consultation with the Governor, has sole authority over all instances of quarantine, isolation, and restrictions on commerce and travel throughout Arkansas, as necessary and appropriate to control disease in the state of Arkansas as authorized by Ark. Code Ann. §20-7-109--110. **Community spread of COVID-19 remains active within the State. Therefore, the Arkansas Department of Health (ADH) makes the following recommendations for how to best prevent transmission of COVID-19 at summer day camps.**

This guidance from ADH addresses the operation of summer day camps throughout the state during the summer of 2021. This guidance is intended to cover organized, daytime group activities for children that may be outdoors or indoors, including vacation Bible school, band camps, and arts camps. It is not intended to cover summer residential, or overnight, camps, which can be found in the Guidance for Summer Residential Camps. Summer day camps should follow the measures below to protect the health of attendees and staff. Taking these proactive measures will help limit the spread of COVID-19 and help safeguard children and their families.

- The more people at a camp who are fully vaccinated against COVID-19, the less likely it will be for a large outbreak to occur. ADH strongly recommends camps encourage all eligible campers and staff to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 before arrival to camp. Currently, vaccination is available to all those aged 16 years and older. So, most camp staff and counselors should be eligible to receive a COVID-19 vaccine.
- Summer Day camps should limit the number of persons entering the facility except:
 - Camp or facility staff;
 - Children enrolled at the camp;
 - Parents or legal guardians who have children enrolled and present at the facility; and
 - Professionals providing services to children.
- The camp should consider scheduling arrival/departure times to limit the number of campers and parents present at one time. Campers should preferably be dropped off outside the facility. If necessary, parents can drop off campers within the facility but are encouraged to remain in their vehicles and should wear a face covering while at camp. If parents are allowed out of vehicles at arrival/departure, they should adhere to physical distancing and masking measures.

- All efforts should be made to limit the congregation of children. Class sizes should be limited to numbers allowing for proper physical distancing.
- As much as possible, maintain physical distancing of 6 feet (space seating, etc.).
- Ensure student and staff groupings change as little as possible by having the same group of children stay with the same staff (all day for young children and as much as possible for older children). Limit mixing between groups.
- Limit camp enrollment to numbers that will allow for proper physical distancing.
- Avoid group events, gatherings, or meetings where social distancing of at least 6 feet between people cannot be maintained. Limit group size to the extent possible.
- Avoid field trips and events with outside groups or other camps.
- Staff and campers 2 years of age and older should wear cloth face coverings to diminish potential spread from people who might be asymptomatic or pre-symptomatic for COVID-19 infection. Face coverings also help protect the person who is wearing one. For safety reasons, under **no** circumstances should a mask be placed on a child under 2 years of age, nor should anyone who is incapacitated or unable to easily remove the mask without help. See ADH [Face Covering Guidance](#) for more details.
- Areas that are frequently touched—shared objects/toys, door handles, drinking fountains, and sink handles—should be cleaned and disinfected between uses, or at least frequently throughout the day.
- **Do not allow sick children to be cared for in the facility.** Sick children should stay at home. If a child becomes sick while at the day camp, contact the parent or guardian immediately and separate the child from other children at the camp.
- Ensure that each child is provided individual meals and snacks. Do not serve family style meals.
 - Mealtimes should occur in classrooms if at all possible. If communal use spaces such as dining halls are used, ensure adequate physical distancing. Stagger mealtimes and disinfect in between use.
- Attempts should be made to increase ventilation in indoor areas as much as possible. This may include, without limitation, opening doors and windows as weather permits, turning on exhaust fans, improving central air filtration without significantly diminishing design airflow, or, if equipped, run the HVAC system at maximum outside airflow for 2 hours before and after occupied times.
 - Consider holding as many activities and meetings outside as possible.

Screening criteria

Advise campers and families in advance about COVID-19 symptoms and exclusions, and place signage at all entrances. These signs should inform campers and staff that those who have any of the following characteristics should NOT be allowed to enter:

- Have had a fever of 100.4°F or greater in the last 2 days;
- Have a cough, difficulty breathing, sore throat, or loss of taste or smell or any symptom typical of COVID-19;
- Had contact with a person known to be infected with COVID-19 in the previous 14 days and have not themselves been fully vaccinated;
- Had a positive COVID-19 test in last 10 days;
- Waiting on the results of a test for COVID-19.

Advise campers and staff/volunteers that some people may wish to refrain from entering. Place signage at all entrances alerting campers and staff that it may not be safe for the following people to enter:

- Individuals who are 65 years of age or older.

- Individuals of any age with underlying health conditions, including high blood pressure, chronic lung disease, diabetes, severe obesity, asthma or weakened immunity.

Screen staff/volunteers for fever, cough, difficulty breathing, sore throat or loss of taste or smell upon arrival or other COVID-19 symptoms; exclude from work all who are ill. Camps could also opt to check temperatures and ask the above screening questions of all who enter to ensure no one who is ill or exposed enters the camp.

CDC Guidance for Youth and Summer Camps

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/summer-camps.html>

Environmental Cleaning and Disinfection Recommendations:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/disinfecting-building-facility.html>